Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on January 9 and January 10 in St. John's to discuss matters of importance and urgency to teachers. In an effort to keep you more informed and up to date on the activities of Provincial Executive on your behalf, the following summary of the meeting has been compiled.

A detailed discussion on current topics took place at the start of this Provincial Executive meeting. These current topics included pensions, education reform, collective bargaining, and Article 9 Layoffs. Further information on these items will be forthcoming from Benefits and Economic Services.

Motions approved by Executive

The Professional Development and Benefits and Economic Services Divisions will each establish its own link on the NLTA Home Page to provide background information on specific responsibilities and programming available through those divisions. The Association will then provide for the establishment and maintenance of these links. Please contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Division, for further information.

The Equity Issues in Education Committee explored the Elder Care Leave provisions across the country and it was decided that the issue of paid leave for elder care will be considered in the next round of negotiations. Please contact Benefits and Economic Services for more information.

A Public Relations/Political Action Committee will be established with the membership and terms of reference as noted by Table Officers, with the main purpose of preparing a strategy to counter government pensions legislation including a public relations campaign to create a political climate that will make pensions legislation difficult. This committee will also prepare and advise Provincial Executive Council on ways and means for the Association to be active in the political process in order to influence decisions at the Provincial Government level that affect education and teachers. Please contact the Communications Officer for further information.

An Ad Hoc Committee on Joint Council Procedures will be established with the membership with the intention of considering and developing a set of guidelines regarding the responsibilities and duties of all Joint Council members vis a vis decisions taken by Joint Council. Recommendations would be brought back to the next Joint Council meeting for consideration. Please contact Benefits and Economic Services or Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President, for more information.

The inclusion of teachers in private schools as members of NLTA will be a topic for discussion at the next Executive meeting. A briefing paper on the issue will be prepared for Executive prior to the meeting.

The School Administrators' Council will be asked to provide advice and recommendations to Provincial Executive regarding teacher involvement in the government policy on textbooks which are provided to social assistance families. Please contact the Professional Development Division for more information.

The proposed changes to educational leaves under Article 20 of the Collective Agreement will be referred to the Negotiating Team for consideration and action. Please contact Benefits and Economic Services for more information.

Other topics discussed

- School board elections will be held on February 17 and teachers should encourage people to get involved.
- Teacher layoffs were discussed and, as usual, are open for continued discussion with the various educational stakeholders.
- The Executive and administrative staff met with the vice-president of the NLTA investment firm, RT Investments. An investment committee is in place and various aspects of investments were discussed.
- The Group Insurance Committee is now looking into the possibility of travel benefits re: health insurance for persons in isolated areas. For further information please contact Benefits and Economic Services.
- The topic of educational leaves was discussed. The Benefits and Economic Services Division is looking at revisions and ways that educational leave is granted. Over the years the numbers requested have diminished. For further information contact Benefits and Economic Services.

The next Executive meeting will be held on February 26, and the morning of February 27, in St. John's. It will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on Friday and Saturday, at Holiday Inn, St. John's.